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REPORT

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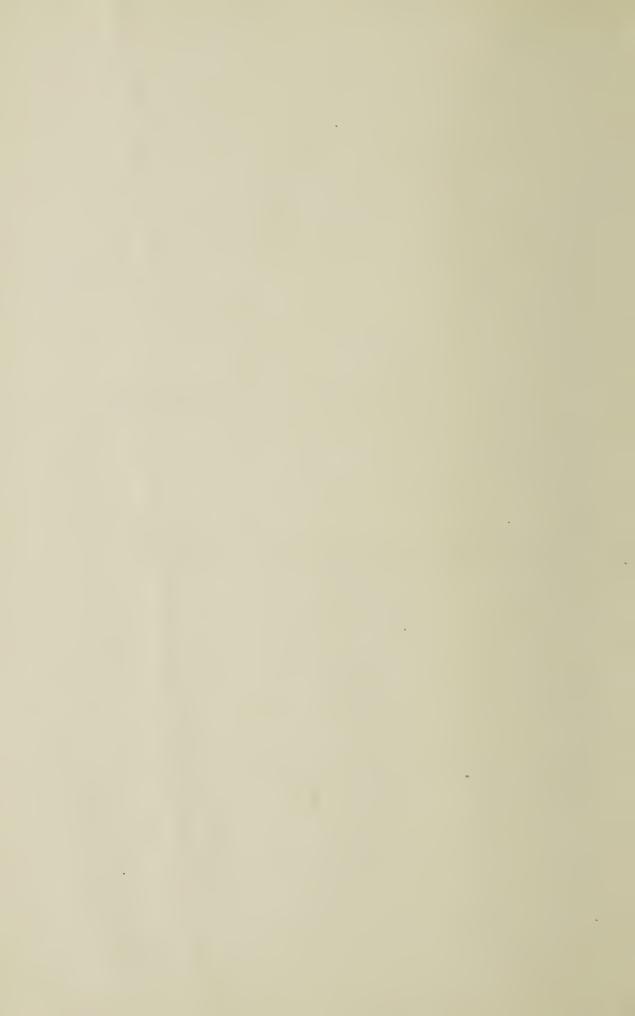
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ending

31st December, 1947.

TIVERTON:

PRINTED BY MASLANDS, 42A, FORE STREET.



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

- (a) Part time M.O.H.:
 - G. NICHOLSON, M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.
- (b) Sanitary Inspector and Water Engineer:
 - W. KEMP, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., F.F.Sc.
- (c) Sanitary Inspectors:
 - W. P. ROBERTS, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.
 - D. G. EVANS, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.

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TO THE

TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you my Annual Report on the health of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1947.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

AREA. 114,139 Acres.

Population estimated 20,160.

RATEABLE VALUE, £76,150.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE, £333 7s. 7d.

Social Conditions. Agriculture being the chief occupation of the inhabitants, conditions are on the whole good.

SLAUGHTERING INDUSTRIES.

Government Slaughterhouse, Tiverton Junction.

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total.	M.	F.				
Live Legitimate Births Illegitimate	365 27		177 14	} Birth the]	Rate popula	e per tion—	1000 19·5
Still \ Legitimate Births \) Illegitimate	9 2	7 1	2 1) Rate (live	per and s births	1000 t till-bir s—28·0	otal ths)
Deaths	27 7	144	133	Crude 1,000 reside	Deat of the ent po	h Rate e estim pulation	e per nated on—
Deaths from dis				from s		causes	Nil. Nil.
Death Rate of I	Infants	unde	r one	year of	age:-		
All infants pe	er 1,000) live	birth	S	• • •		45.9
Legitimate in	fants p	er 1,0	000 le	gitimate	e live b	irths	46.5
Illegitimate i	nfants	death	s und	ler one	• • •		1
Deaths from Mo	easles (all ag	ges)	• • •	• • •	•••	1
,, ,, W	hoopin	g Cou	ıgh (a	ll ages)		•••	Nil.
,, ,, Di	arrhœa	a (und	ler 2	years of	age)	•••	1
,, ,, Ca	ncer		• • •	• • •			44
STATISTICS FOR ENG	GLAND	AND	Wale	zs.			
Births per 1,00	0 of po	pulati	on		}	Live Still	20·5 0·50
Deaths		••	•••	• • •		• • •	12.0
Deaths under o	ne year	r of a	ge	• • •	• • •		41

EXCESSIVE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR.

Nil.

The Birth rate is the highest recorded for many year .

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

- 1. Nursing in the Home. No change.
- 2. Number of Midwives practising in the Area. The District Nurses of which there are 16 act in this capacity.
- 3. LABORATORY FACILITIES. Clinical material is examined at the County Laboratories as before.
- 4. LEGISLATION IN FORCE. There has been no major change during the past year with regard to Legislation in Force throughout the Area.
- 5. The Tiverton Joint Hospital for Infectious Diseases.

 The position in the above is unsatisfactory. There is a chronic shortage of staff which renders this institution useless.
- GENERAL SURGICAL and Medical Cases are sent to the Tiverton and District Hospital or the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. These have always proved adequate in accommodation.
- MATERNITY CASES requiring hospital treatment usually are admitted to the Tiverton & District Hospital. Admissions have to be limited owing to danger of overcrowding.

INOCULATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

It is calculated that since 1938 1497 children under 5 have been fully immunised.

2963 between the ages 5 to 15.

This makes a total of 4460.

SCABIES.

The incidence of this disease has declined during the year.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Water Supplies generally are fairly satisfactory, and many farmers are taking advantage of Grant Aid to improve their farm supplies.

The Regional Water Scheme has been satisfactory although there have been occasional reports of shortages in the Bradninch, Silverton and Thorverton areas. The causes of this are under investigation.

Extensions to the Regional Water Scheme are being considered or have been carried out in the following Districts: Cullompton, Uffculme, Burlescombe, Uplowman, Whitnage, Hele, Silverton, Thorverton, Butterleigh and Bickleigh.

SHOP ACT. No action taken.

SMOKE ABATEMENT. Complaints have been received and are being investigated concerning an alleged smoke nuisance in the Hemyock area.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Disposal of Sewage throughout the District is fairly satisfactory although there is need for improvement.

Schemes are urgently required for Bampton, Culmstock, Hemyock, Ashill, Kentisbeare, Sampford Peverell and Willand, and Schemes have been prepared and submitted to the Ministry for Bampton, Halberton, Willand and Sampford Peverell.

SCAVENGING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Refuse is collected in 24 Parishes and is dealt with by controlled tipping at Gaddon Down, Uffculme. The present scheme is satisfactory but improvements could be effected and more Parishes included, with weekly collections made at Willand, Halberton, Culmstock and Hemyock.

Schools.

The general condition and sanitation of schools are satisfactory.

CANTENDY INCREOMICH OF

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12
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FORM 572.

1.—INSPECTION FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

	Number of					
Premises.	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)			
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	8	Nil	Nil			
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	10	2	Nil			
Workplaces(Other than Outworkers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil			
Total	18	2	Nil			

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Insufficient W.C. accommodation 2. One was not complied with at the end of the year.

Lime Washing required. 4 complied with.

HOUSING.

1.	Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—
	(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 1102
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 1320
	(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 907
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 994
	(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 53
	(4) Number of dwelling-houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head, and found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 854
2.	Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices:—
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 72
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—
	A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 7
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:
	(a) By owners (work in hand) 7
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil.

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:
 - (a) By owners 7

9

- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil.
- C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:
 - (1) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted ... Nil.
 - (2) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition order Nil.
- D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing
 Act of 1936 ... Nil.

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

The systematic inspection of houses of a rateable value of under £16, for sanitary defects, continued throughout the year. As will be seen from the above figures, considerable progress continues to be made.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

Some progress has been made in the renovation of cowsheds during the year.

Applications for Building Licences in connection with Milk Production have been granted in all cases by the Local Authority for work under £100.

The support of the Authority has been given to work connected with new cowsheds, or re-construction, to the Ministry of Works for Licence Applications over £100.

Milk Sampling is now carried out by the Devon County Council, under the direction of the County Medical Officer of Health.

(b) MEAT INSPECTION.

Meat Regulations and Slaughterhouses (R. D. C.) Order, 1924.

The Tiverton Junction Abattoirs has been the only one in use throughout the year.

A large proportion of one Inspector's time has been devoted to this work.

All carcases and offal have been inspected at the time, or just after, slaughter.

The quality and quantity of the meat has been rather lower than in previous years due no doubt to shortage of Animal Feeding products.

Attention has been drawn several times to the need of more care in the handling of carcases, and the cleaning of the slaughterhouse.

Informal Notice was served regarding unsatisfactory lavatory accommodation, and was complied with.

Considerable improvement has been made with reference to the lighting arrangements and small day to day repairs received attention.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

No action has been needed under the above Act. The electroleather is used for the stunning of sheep and pigs, and the Cash Captive Bolt for bullocks and calves.

- (c) ADULTERATION.—No action taken under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.
- (d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

 No Action taken.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1947 giving age incidence.

Under 1 Year.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Whoop- ing Cough.	Measles.	Pneu- monia.	Ery-sipelas.	Para Typhoid.	Dysen- tery. (Sonné)	Cerebro Spinal Menin- gitis.	Ac Polio- myelitis
0— 1			1	7						
1— 3			$\bar{5}$	36	1					1
3— 5	2	_	3	55	2		_			_
5—10	13		6	164	2		_		_	1
10—15	10	—	1	32	1		_		_	_
15 - 25	2	—	_	3	1	-		_		_
25—30		_		6	_	_	_		_	
30—35	_	_		2 5	—	2	_	_	_	_
35 - 45	2	-	_		_		_	_	<u> </u>	
45 - 55	_	_		1	4	1	_	_		_
55 - over	_		_	1	4	 	_	<u> </u>	_	<u> </u>
Age Unknown	—	—		1		_	_	<u> </u>	—	_
Total	29		16	313	15	3				2

PUERPERAL PYREXIA. 1 case.

Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality during 1947.

Age	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
Periods.	Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.		Pulmo	onary.	Non- Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	\mathbf{F} .	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	_	<u> </u>		_			
1	1	_	_		_	<u> </u>		
5	_	<u> </u>				_	_	
10			_			_	_	_
15		_	1		_	_	_	_
20	1	<u> </u>		<u> </u>	1	_	_	_
25	_	1	-	_	_	1	-	
35	2	_	—	_	1	_		_
45	1	1	—	_	_	—	_	l —
55	_		1	1	_		_	
65 up	_	1	_		_	_	—	_
Age Unknown					_			
Total	5	3	2	1	2	1	_	

All the above deaths have been notified according to the Regulations.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis)
Regulations, 1925. No action was taken.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62. No action was taken.

I am indebted to the officers of the Council for their help during the year.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

G. NICHOLSON.

